

Strategy for December Meetings

The CALFED meetings with Secretary Babbitt and Chief of Staff George Dunn have resulted in progress on key components of the draft Preferred Alternative. At the first three meetings (November 10, 17 and 18) critical features of a draft Preferred Alternative were discussed with stakeholders. As a result of the success of the first meetings, the December 1 and 2 meeting will focus on more specific details and proposed language changes in the Phase II Report. The December 1 and 2 meetings will also set up the discussion of the "entire package" for the December 8 and 9 meetings. Listed below is the schedule and strategy for the December meetings, which will be culminate in the release of the draft Phase II Report December 18.

December 1

- **Water Quality and Conveyance/Stage I Actions.** A report will be given on the progress made since the November 10 meeting due to continued stakeholder discussions. Draft language for the Phase II Report will be presented. Progress on these topics will help shape the details for the assurance and finance discussion on December 8.
- **Section 404 Clean Water Act.** A brief description of the 404 permit strategy will be presented. While the 404 strategy is only one component of the broader assurance strategy, it is a component that ties the CALFED "package" together and affects essentially all components of the Program. In addition, CALFED is developing a new approach to overall 404 compliance. The full assurance discussion will continue on December 8.
- **Implementation Costs.** A brief report will be provided on the current assumptions, funding sources, and cost estimates associated with Stage I implementation. This report will set the stage for further discussions on December 8.

December 2

- **Diversion Effects on Fish.** A report will be provided on the substantial progress made since the November 17 meeting on development of a hybrid operational scenario with attention to an environmental water account. The Tim Quinn/Mike Spear working group will continue meeting to further refine a scenario and will provide additional detail for the assurance and finance discussion on December 8.
- **Water Management Strategy.** An update on the modifications to the water management strategy will be provided and, pursuant to the November 18 meeting, the focus will be on agricultural water use efficiency and storage. This discussion will also help shape the details of the assurance and finance discussion on December 8.

December 8 and 9

- **Assurances and Financing.** The full package for the draft Preferred Alternative will be discussed with emphasis on the assurances and financing for implementation. Discussion will also focus on identification of the remaining decisions and the process needed to finalize the Preferred Alternative between December 1998 and the Record of Decision.
- **Phase II Report.** This meeting will focus on the Phase II Report and any remaining issues that need to be addressed.

December 17 and 18

- **Policy Group.** Review for public distribution draft Phase II Report.
- **Public Release/Ceremony**